

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 1-54 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 29 and 30-37 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to the above-noted Restriction Requirement.

Claims 44 (second occurrence) through 53 have been renumbered as claims 45-54 to correct a numbering error—extending the correct number of claims pending in the application from 1-53 as originally presented, to claims 1-54 to resolve a duplication of claims originally designated as claim 44.

In the Restriction Requirement, claims 1-53 were restricted into the following three groups:

- I. Claims 1-28 and 38-53, drawn to an orthopedic knee brace, classified in class 602, subclass 26.
- II. Claims 29, drawn to a method of constructing a knee brace, classified in class 128, subclass 898.
- III. Claims 30-37, drawn to a hinge, classified in class 16, subclass 221.

Applicants hereby elect Group 1, claims 1-28 and 38-54, drawn to an orthopedic knee brace, for prosecution at this time.

The claims were further identified as presenting two allegedly distinct species, corresponding to Species 1: Figure 1, and Species 2: Figure 2.

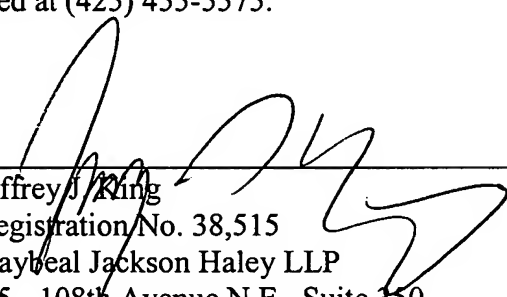
Applicants hereby elect Species 2: Figure 2 for initial examination, with the expectation that Species 1 will be rejoined upon allowance of a generic claim.

The Group and Species elections made above are presented with traverse, and no representations are made by this election concerning the merits of the Restriction and species election requirements with respect to the possible existence of multiple distinct inventions among the originally presented claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of all non-elected claims in one or more related applications. Applications respectfully request allowance of all pending elected claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance, and thus an official action to that end is urged. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at (425) 455-5575.

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